

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1 and 4-6 are now present in the application. Claim 1 is independent.

In the prior Office Action mailed January 9, 2008, claims 3-5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim, but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. In accord with the Examiner's indication, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 and 3. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled through this reply. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested, inasmuch as the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 3-5 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Every effort has been made to adopt the suggestions of the Examiner with a view toward early allowance.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Objections to the Specification

In accord with the instructions from the Examiner, the Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to address any grammatical errors.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the prior Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by the JP-3005098 to Matsumoto Takeshi. Inasmuch as the allowable subject matter of claim 3 has now been added to independent claim 1, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectively requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the prior Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over JP-3005098 in view of Wendel. It is noted that two U.S. Patents to “Wendel” were made of record by the Examiner, but it appears that the reference used in the rejection is U.S. Patent No. 2,243,809. Inasmuch as claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and because Wendel merely relates to fitting portions, and does not in any way teach or suggest the allowable subject matter of claim 1 as now amended, claims 1 and 6, should now be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of record in the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been

made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul T. Sewell, Reg. No. 61,784, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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